

Message Text

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UNCLAS KATHMANDU 0867

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: CHARLIE BYRD TRIO

1. CHARLIE BYRD TRIO DEPARTED KATHMANDU FEBRUARY 22 FOLLOWING TWO OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES. TRIO PERFORMED FIRST FOR PRESTIGE AUDIENCE AT PAO RESIDENCE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 20. BYRD AND TRIO WERE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED BY ALL PRESENT AND SEVERAL GUESTS RETURNED TO HEAR BYRD'S SECOND CONCERT THE FOLLOWING EVENING.

2. HIGH-POINT OF THE TRIO'S ALL TOO BRIEF TOUR WAS INVITATIONAL CONCERT EVENING OF FEBRUARY 21 AT NATIONAL CITY HALL. AUDIENCE OF APPROXIMATELY 650 INCLUDED NUMBER OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; INTELLECTUAL, ARTISTIC AND COMMUNITY LEADERS; REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO; AND MEMBER OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. AUDIENCE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC, GREETING EACH NUMBER WITH SUSTAINED APPLAUSE. BYRD'S VIRTUOSITY CARRIED AUDIENCE FROM TOE-TAPPING TO MOTIONLESS AWE AND BACK AGAIN. OPINION OF ALL WITH WHOM POST HAS TALKED SINCE CONCERTS IS UNANIMOUS IN PRAISING BYRD AS A GUITARIST WITHOUT EQUAL.

3. KATHMANDU VALLEY'S LEADING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, UNCLASSIFIED

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THE RISING NEPAL, NOT USUALLY GIVEN TO CRITICAL REVIEWS OF

CULTURAL EVENTS, GAVE TRIO RAVE NOTICES IN FEBRUARY 23 ISSUE. REVIEW NOTED THAT "BYRD IS SYNONYMOUS WITH BRILLIANCE. PLAYING TO ALMOST PACKED AUDIENCE IN KATHMANDU'S CITH HALL, BYRD ENTHRALLED AND ENCHANTED, CHARMED AND DELIGHTED HIS WAY THROUGH A PERFORMANCE THAT CAN ONLY BE CLASSED AS EXQUISITE." REVIEW ALSO SAID "RAG-TIME OR BLUES, JAZZ OR FOLK, BYRD REMAINED PROSAICALLY CONSPICUOUS AND BEAUTIFULLY NATURAL... NONE WANTED THE SHOW TO END." WIDEST-CIRCULATION VERNACULAR DAILY, GORKHAPATRA, CARRIED SIMILARLY FAVORABLE COMMENT ON CONCERT.

4. POST JUDGES BYRD TRIO TOUR UNQUESTIONED AND UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS AND ONLY WISHES BYRD AND COMPANY COULD HAVE BEEN HERE LONGER. THEIR TWO CONCERTS PROVIDED POST'S AUDIENCE WITH EVENINGS THAT WILL BE LONG AND FONDLY REMEMBERED. HALEY

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